

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01 AID-20

RSR-01 /166 W

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R 241040 Z MAR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2792

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0886

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV; PFOR US IS EG

SUBJECT: MARCH 24 CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. ALL PAPERS STATE THAT SADAT' S ADDRESS TO JOINT MEETING OF ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PEOPLE' S ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, WILL BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. AHRAM AND GUMHURIYYA STATE SADAT' S MEETING WILL BE " TURNING POINT" IN NATION' S POLITICS. AKHBAR STATES THAT IT WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF IMPORTANT STAGE, BOTH EXTERNALLY AND INTERNALLY. GUMHURIYYA SAYS THAT SADAT WILL REVEAL BROAD LINES OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE LIGHT OF THE INTENSE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT BOTH EAST AND WEST, AND CONTACTS CARRIED OUT BY HAFEZ ISMAIL, SAYYID MAREI AND FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT. GUMHURIYYA NOTES THOSE WITH WHOM SADAT HAS CONSULTED REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE STEPS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS: HUSSEIN SHAFEI, SAYYID MAREI, MININFO HATEM, HAFEZ ISMAIL, TREASURY MINISTER HEGAZI,

MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS RATIB AND CAIRO GOVERNOR HAMDI ASHOUR. GUMHURIYYA NOTES THAT SADAT HAS ALREADY " MET WITH DR. AZIZ SIDKY THE TUESDAY BEFORE LAST (MARCH 13)." (COMMENT: IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT GUMHURIYYA HAS DROPPED SIDKY' S TITLE, PRIME MINISTER, FROM ITS ARTICLE; AND IT IS WIDELY EXPECTED THAT SIDKY WILL BE REPLACED IN MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE SHORTLY.)

2. IHSAN ABDEL QUDDUS' ARTICLE " THE SEARCH FOR A NEW STAGE," BEGINS WITH STATEMENT THAT, FOR MANY MONTHS, MOST IMPORTANT CONCERN OF POLITICAL THOUGHT IN EGYPT HAS BEEN SEARCH FOR A PLAN FOR FUTURE. EGYPT' S RECENT INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS ARE PART OF THIS SEARCH, AND HAVE HELPED CREATE PLAN ON BASIS OF CURRENT REALITY. QUDDUS STATES THAT MOST IMPORTANT CONTACT HAS BEEN THAT BETWEEN EGYPT AND US, THROUGH HAFEZ ISMAIL' S VISIT, SINCE US IS ONLY STATE IN WORLD UPON WHICH ISRAEL IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT FOR FINANCING AND WEAPONRY. EGYPT' S CASE DEPENDS ON US; WHAT IS US POSITION, QUDDUS ASKS, AS REVEALED BY RECENT CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH BOTH PRESIDENT NIXON AND KISSINGER TOOK PART?

3. QUDDUS SAYS THAT HIS ONLY INFORMATION IS FROM PUBLIC SOURCES. HE STATES THAT PRESIDENT NIXON' S STATEMENT OF THE CASE IS IN " NEW TERMS" UNRELATED TO SC RES. 242. IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE REQUIREMENTS OF EGYPT' S SOVEREIGNTY AND THOSE OF ISRAELI SECURITY. QUDDUS CONTINUES THAT AT WASHINGTON MEETINGS, PROPOSAL FOR STATIONING OF INTERNATIONAL FORCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, AND PROPOSAL FOR US GUARANTEE OF BOTH ISRAEL' S SECURITY AND MILITARY SUPERIORITY, WERE DISCUSSED. QUDDUS SAYS THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT OFFICIAL PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE THAT ISRAEL' S SECURITY BE GUARANTEED AT EXPENSE OF EGYPT' S SOVEREIGNTY. AS ENVISAGED BY WHITE HOUSE, PLAN WOULD INVOLVE EGYPT' S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, WHICH, QUDDUS SAYS, WOULD GIVE ISRAEL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT SINAI. PLAN WOULD INVOLVE PROHIBITION OF SINAI TO EGYPTIAN

ARMY, EVEN OF GUARD POSTS, BUT THERE WOULD BE NO DENIAL THAT SINAI IS EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. QUDDUS SAYS THAT SARCASTIC COMMENT WAS MADE IN WHITE HOUSE MEETING TO EFFECT THAT ISRAELI FORCES CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD REACH SUEZ CANAL IN JUST A FEW MINUTES; BUT WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS STATED THAT ISRAELI FORCES NOW OCCUPY SUEZ CANAL. THIS MEANS, SAYS QUDDUS, THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM CANAL WOULD NOT DEPRIVE ISRAELI FORCES OF RIGHT TO REOCCUPY IT.

4. QUDDUS NOTES RECENT ARTICLE BY STEWART ALSOP, WHO WROTE THAT, ACCORDING TO OPTIMISTS, ISRAEL CAN BE PERSUADED TO RETAIN CONTROL OF SHARM EL SHEIK, UNDER SYMBOLIC EGYPTIAN FLAG. QUDDUS SAYS THAT ALSOP REALLY MEANS ALL

OF SINAI; AND THAT ALSO P' S " OPTIMISTS" ENVISAGE ISRAEL AS GOVERNING SINAI UNDER TOKEN EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY, AND THAT IN A FEW YEARS ISRAEL WILL MOVE ON TO GOVERN CAIRO, TRIPOLI, AND KHARTOUM UNDER TOKEN ARAB SOVEREIGNTY.

5. QUDDUS TURNS TO HIS UNDERSTANDING OF GOLDA MEIR' S MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. HE SAYS HER SLOGAN WAS " WHAT WE HAVE GAINED, WE KEEP." HE SAYS THAT IN WASHINGTON, MEIR OFFERED TO WITHDRAW FROM A SMALL PIECE OF LAND SO THAT CANAL COULD BE REOPENED. SHE DID NOT DEFINE THIS PIECE OF LAND, ALTHOUGH SHE KNEW THAT " EGYPT HAS OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THE WHITE HOUSE THAT THE SUEZ CANAL CAN NEVER BE REOPENED EXCEPT WITH GUARANTEE THAT SHE WOULD REGAIN ALL HER LANDS." PRESIDENT NIXON, SAYS QUDDUS, TOLD GOLDA MEIR THAT SHE SHOULD CONCEDE SOME OF ISRAEL' S GAINS, THEREBY TURNING VICTORY INTO CHIVALRY. GOLDA MEIR MERELY REPEATED, " WHAT WE HAVE GAINED, WE KEEP."

6. QUDDUS SAYS THAT US WANTS DISCUSSION TO GO ON AND ON. WHITE HOUSE KNOWS THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT ACCEPT A SOLUTION UNLESS IT KNOWS THIS SOLUTION WILL BE REJECTED BY THE ARABS. QUDDUS SAYS IT IS TIME TO MOVE TO NEW STAGE. US CAN IMPOSE ITS WILL ON ISRAEL; BUT THE " PRESSURE OF A NEW STATUS QUO" MUST BE IMPOSED ON US. QUDDUS SAYS THAT VIETNAM IS AN EXAMPLE, WHERE A POLITICAL DIALOGUE OCCURRED WHILE FIGHTING CONTINUED FOR FOUR YEARS. PRESENT US/ EGYPTIAN DIALOGUE IS NONSENSE, SINCE EGYPT IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH US ASKS FOR PEACE WHILE PEACE ACTUALLY EXISTS. WITHOUT FIGHTING, A STATE OF PEACE IN FACT EXISTS. QUDDUS SAYS CHANGE MUST THEREFORE TAKE PLACE.

7. REGARDING EGYPTIAN/ SOVIET RELATIONS, SOVIET UNION IS STILL NEAREST TO EGYPTIAN INTERESTS AND FARTHEST FROM ISRAEL' S. US AND SOVIETS THEREFORE ARE NOT ON EQUAL FOOTING VIS- A- VIS
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EGYPT OR ISRAEL. DESPITE " CRISIS" OF EGYPTIAN/ SOVIET RELATIONS, ECONOMIC EXCHANGES CONTINUED. ONLY UNSOLVED PROBLEM IS THAT OF ARMS, BUT QUDDUS SAYS THAT HE IMAGINES " RECENT CONTACTS" HAVE LED TO A CERTAIN LEVEL OF FULL AGREEMENT AND ABSOLUTE FRANKNESS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SOVIETS. QUDDUS CONCLUDES THAT TYPE OF ARMS SOVIETS PROVIDE DOES NOT MATTER, AND THAT CONTINUITY OF DELIVERY IS MORE IMPORTANT; AND THAT CONTINUATION OF ARMS SUPPLIES DOES NOT REQUIRE GOING BACK ON DECISION TO TERMINATE MISSION OF SOVIET ADVISORS.

8. QUDDUS STATES THAT CHANGE IN INTERNAL SITUATION IS ALSO REQUIRED FOR EGYPT TO SHIFT TO NEW STAGE. HE CALLS THIS ANOTHER SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION.
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